

AMENDENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-3 and 7-10 without prejudice and disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-3 (canceled)

Claim 4. (currently amended) A facsimile apparatus comprising:

a facsimile communication section which has a plurality of network channels to be used in facsimile communication;

an e-mail communication section which transmits/receives e-mail;

a channel selection information table which stores a plurality of said network channels and channel selection information corresponding to each of the plurality of said network channels; and

a channel selecting section which specifies said network channel to be used with reference to said channel selection information table based on said channel selection information, when an e-mail, which includes said channel selection information and dialing information of a transmission destination, is received,

wherein said facsimile communication section uses said specified network channel to transmit image information of said received e-mail to a transmission destination designated by said dialing information by facsimile,

~~The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein, when said channel selection information table has no channel selection information extracted from said received e-~~

mail, said apparatus provides a notification, ~~in which indicating that~~ said channel selection information is improper, to a sender of said received e-mail.

Claim 5. (currently amended) A facsimile apparatus comprising:

a facsimile communication section which has a plurality of network channels to be used in facsimile communication;

an e-mail communication section which transmits/receives e-mail;

a channel selection information table which stores a plurality of said network channels and channel selection information corresponding to each of the plurality of said network channels; and

a channel selecting section which specifies said network channel to be used with reference to said channel selection information table based on said channel selection information, when an e-mail, which includes said channel selection information and dialing information of a transmission destination, is received,

wherein said facsimile communication section uses said specified network channel to transmit image information of said received e-mail to a transmission destination designated by said dialing information by facsimile,

~~The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein when there is neither said channel selection information nor said dialing information is in said received e-mail, said facsimile apparatus prints out information of said received e-mail.~~

Claim 6. (currently amended) A facsimile apparatus comprising:

a facsimile communication section which has a plurality of network channels to be used in facsimile communication;

an e-mail communication section which transmits/receives e-mail;

a channel selection information table which stores a plurality of said network channels and channel selection information corresponding to each of the plurality of said network channels; and

a channel selecting section which specifies said network channel to be used with reference to said channel selection information table based on said channel selection information, when an e-mail, which includes said channel selection information and dialing information of a transmission destination, is received,

wherein said facsimile communication section uses said specified network channel to transmit image information of said received e-mail to a transmission destination designated by said dialing information by facsimile,

~~The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein a content of said channel selection information table is updated by input information input from a panel control section.~~

Claims 7-10 (canceled)

Claim 11. (new) A facsimile apparatus having a plurality of communication channels, at least one of the communication channels being connected to a LAN, the facsimile apparatus comprising:

a controller configured to detect receipt of an e-mail, to which image data is attached, via at least the communication channel connected to the LAN, the e-mail

including a predetermined password, the predetermined password indicating relay of the attached image data to another facsimile apparatus, the predetermined password further indicating a communication channel to be utilized for relay of the attached image data to the another facsimile apparatus; and

the controller, when the received e-mail includes the predetermined password, being further configured to select, based on the predetermined password, a communication channel for relay of the attached image data to the another facsimile apparatus, to convert the attached image data into facsimile data, and to relay the converted facsimile data to the another facsimile apparatus via the selected communication channel, based on the predetermined password.

Claim 12. (new) The facsimile apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a table configured to store, for each of a plurality of passwords, information indicating a communication channel for relay of the attached image data to the another facsimile apparatus, wherein, when the received e-mail includes the predetermined password, the controller searches the table for information corresponding to the predetermined password, and selects the communication channel for relay of the attached image data to the another facsimile apparatus, based on the corresponding information.

Claim 13. (new) The facsimile apparatus according to claim 12, wherein when the table does not contain information corresponding to the predetermined password, the controller transmits an e-mail to a transmitter of the received e-mail, the e-mail notifying

the transmitter that the predetermined password indicates an improper communication channel for relay of the attached image data to the another facsimile apparatus.

Claim 14. (new) The facsimile apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a panel configured to input information indicating a communication channel for relay of the attached image data to the another facsimile apparatus, whereby the table is capable of being updated regarding the information indicating a communication channel for relay of the attached image data to the another facsimile apparatus, by the panel.

Claim 15. (new) The facsimile apparatus according to claim 11, wherein another one of the plurality of communication channels is configured to be connected to one of a PSTN and an ISDN.

Claim 16. (new) The facsimile apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the password is included in a header of the received e-mail.

Claim 17. (new) A channel selecting method in a facsimile apparatus, the facsimile apparatus having a plurality of communication channels, at least one of the communication channels being connected to a LAN, the channel selecting method comprising:

receiving an e-mail, to which image data is attached, via the communication channel connected to the LAN, the e-mail including a predetermined password, the predetermined password indicating relay of the attached image data to another facsimile apparatus, the predetermined password further indicating which communication channel is to be utilized for relaying the attached image data to the another facsimile apparatus;

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selecting a communication channel for relay of the attached image data to another facsimile apparatus, based on the predetermined password;  
converting the attached image data into facsimile data; and  
relayng the converted facsimile data to the another facsimile apparatus via the selected communication channel, based on the predetermined password.